Retirement Age of Central Government Employees

310. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scope of recruitment of fresh entrants to the Central Government jobs has been reduced to zero following certain restrictions including the raising of age of retirement of the Central Government servants from 58 years to 60 years;

(b) whether it is proposed to reduce the age of retirement from 60 years to 58 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what other steps are proposed to be taken to open up avenues of promotion for the Central Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The age of retirement does not have one to one relationship with the employment opportunities and as such the increase in age of retirement has not materially affected the overall employment market. Even prior to increase in age of retirement, large number of employees of the Central Government belonging to Group D and workmen category, scientific and technical personnel, school teachers and a section of doctors used to retire at the age of 60 years. The vacancies in these cadres continue to be available for fresh recruitment further reducing the impact on unemployment. However, to ensure that unemployed youth are not put to disadvantage, the maximum age of entry into Government service through open competition has also been increased by two years.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration to reduce the age of retirement of Union government employees from 60 to 58 years.

(c) and (d) With opening of the infrastructure sectors like telecom, power roads, communication, posts, etc. to the private entrepreneurs, the employment opportunities have increased considerably. Moreover, a number of emnployment generating schemes are being implemented.